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## THE COURSE OF STUDY

*To the Editor of the School Review.*

DEAR SIR: Apropos of the discussion regarding courses of study, now in active progress, the appended course may be of interest. The regulations attached to it are an integral part of the plan, and must be kept in mind in order to understand its workings. As thus limited, the optional principle may, in the opinion of the writer, be supported on the following grounds:

1. That an appeal to the assumed ability of school authorities to choose more wisely than the pupils, logically requires the establishment of a single iron-clad course for all pupils; a conclusion which no one, in these latter days, seems to have the temerity, or the logical consistency, to carry out in practice.
2. That the establishment of several inflexible courses, between which pupils are to choose, once for all, abandons completely the theory of benevolent despotism, and substitutes the optional principle in its most injurious and indefensible form: in that, namely, in which the youth of the pupil and the irrevocable nature of the decision combine to produce the maximum number of fatal mistakes, and consequently of ruined careers.
3. That the attempt to escape these consequences by allowing a change of courses and substitution of studies, as now generally practiced, leads to a condition of utter chaos; and that this result cannot be avoided so long as the value-in-exchange of the several studies, and the selection of those which are indispensable, depend upon nothing more permanent or tangible than the private opinion of the temporary principal.
4. That the only way to insure that each graduate, and each pupil, so far as he goes, shall have taken a consistent, well-rounded course, is, therefore, to authorize and at the same time to limit the substitution of studies, on a definite credit basis, in such a manner that whatever choice the pupil makes, he cannot construct for himself a scrappy, unrelated course.

How far the course here submitted meets these requirements, others must judge. In details, it is unquestionably open to criticism. As to the principle involved, however, I am personally entirely convinced, and I should be willing to surrender it only on seeing a clear-cut proof that there is a logical stopping place between a single unvarying course and the elective system.

The course has now been in operation a year and a half, and no one connected with the school would dream of going back to the plan of multiple courses. The pupils know exactly where they stand, and are not tempted to attribute their misfortunes to the caprice of the principal; the task of administration has been greatly simplified, and now that the pupils are at liberty

## GENERAL COURSE OF STUDY

First half year		Per week	Second half year		Per week
NINTH GRADE	REQUIRED		REQUIRED		
	Grammar, composition, and classics .....	5	Grammar, composition, and classics.....		5
	General history: oriental and Greek.....	3	General history: Roman .....		3
	Algebra.....	5	Algebra.....		5
	CHOOSE ONE		CHOOSE ONE		
	Physiology .....	5	Physical geography.....		5
	Latin IX.....	5	Latin IX.....		5
	Bookkeeping.....	5	Bookkeeping .....		5
	EXTRA		EXTRA		
TENTH GRADE	Drawing (1 credit).....	2	Drawing (1 credit).....		2
	Music (1 credit).....	2	Music (1 credit) .....		2
	REQUIRED		REQUIRED		
	Rhetoric, Composition, and classics .....	5	Rhetoric, composition, and classics .....		5
	General history: mediæval.....	3	General history: modern.....		3
	CHOOSE Two		CHOOSE Two		
	Algebra.....	5	Arithmetic .....		5
	Biology .....	5	Botany .....		5
	Latin X.....	5	Latin X.....		5
ELEVENTH GRADE	Business practice and stenography.....	5	Business practice and stenography.....		5
	EXTRA		EXTRA		
	Drawing (1 credit) .....	2	Drawing (1 credit).....		2
	Music (1 credit).....	3	Music (1 credit) .....		2
	REQUIRED		REQUIRED		
	English literature, composition, and classics .....	5	English literature, composition, and classics .....		5
	Plane geometry .....	4	Plane geometry.....		4
	CHOOSE Two		CHOOSE Two		
	English history .....	5	English history.....		5
TWELFTH GRADE	Chemistry .....	5	Chemistry .....		5
	Latin XI.....	5	Latin XI.....		5
	Greek XI.....	5	Greek XI.....		5
	German XI or French XI.....	5	German XI or French XI.....		5
	Business practice and stenography.....	5	Business practice and stenography.....		5
	CHOOSE Four		CHOOSE Four		
	English masterpieces.....	5	English masterpieces.....		5
	U. S. history and economics	5	Civics .....		5
	Solid geometry.....	5	Trigonometry .....		5
	Physics.....	5	Physics .....		5
	Latin XII.....	5	Latin XII.....		5
	Greek XII.....	5	Greek XII.....		5
	German XII or French XII.....	5	German XII or French XII.....		5
	Stenography and commercial law .....	5	Stenography and commercial law .....		5

to follow the bent of their talents, the classes, especially in the upper grades, are no longer weighted down with dead timber.

ROCK ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL

EDWARD VAN DYKE ROBINSON<sup>x</sup>

#### CHOICE OF STUDIES

Pupils may choose any branch offered in the grade in which they are classified, subject to the restrictions indicated in the course of study.

Required work in a lower grade must always be taken in preference to any branches in a higher grade. This means the required amount as well as the required branches.

Special permission from the faculty is requisite to take any study outside of the pupil's grade, to drop a study at any time during the year, or to take any extra study except music or drawing.

Pupils who desire to graduate or to enter college after graduation, must conform to the requirements given for graduation and college preparation, respectively.

Studies will not be given as a rule, unless chosen by six or more pupils.

#### PREPARATION FOR COLLEGE

While the chief object of the high school is the preparation of pupils for life rather than for college, the course, nevertheless, includes all ordinary college-preparatory studies, and it is therefore possible, by judicious selection, to prepare for any of the great universities. But the studies must be chosen with this end constantly in view. A mistake in any term, from the first to the last, would throw the pupil back a year.

For the guidance of pupils, several university-preparatory courses, selected from the general course, are given below. Graduates of this school who have completed any one of these courses, and whose average standing throughout the high school has been 85 per cent. or higher, are entitled to a university certificate. This will admit the holder to any one of several universities without examination.

In the scientific course, pupils who take a foreign language in the third year must continue it through the fourth.

#### GRADING

An average of 75 on each semester's work in each subject is required for passing. A failure on any semester's work must be made up before credit will be given for that subject. This must be done in the regular class, unless the faculty agree that a special examination be allowed. If any pupil fails

<sup>x</sup>Since writing this communication Dr. Robinson has accepted the principalship of the St Paul (Minn.) High School.

## COURSES PREPARATORY FOR THE UNIVERSITY

CLASSICAL	LATIN	SCIENTIFIC
NINTH GRADE		
Grammar, composition and classics..... 5 General history..... 3 Algebra ..... 5 Latin ..... 5	Same as classical	Same as classical, with drawing added
TENTH GRADE		
Rhetoric, composition and classics..... 5 General history..... 3 Algebra-botany ..... 5 Latin ..... 5	Same as classical	Same as classical, with drawing added
ELEVENTH GRADE		
Literature, composition and classics..... 5 Plane geometry ..... 4 Latin ..... 5 Greek ..... 5	Literature, composition and classics .. 5 Plane geometry..... 4 Latin..... 5 German or French... 5	Literature, composition and classics..... 5 Plane geometry..... 4 Chemistry ..... 5 Latin, German, French or English history..... 5
TWELFTH GRADE		
Geometry { civics } .. 5 Physics..... 5 Latin ..... 5 Greek..... 5	Geometry { civics } 5 Physics ..... 5 Latin ..... 5 German or French .. 5	History—civics ..... 5 Geometry-trigonometry.. 5 Physics..... 5 Latin, German, French or English masterpieces.. 5

to pass this examination a second shall not be granted. No pupil shall be passed on the strength of recitation work under private tutors.

All pupils who fall behind their grade in a year's work, that is, either two subjects in one semester, or one subject extending through two semesters, are classified and seated with the next lower grade. But for classification as seniors, 110 credits, or in other words, absolutely clear records for the first three years, are requisite; that is, failure in any study for any recorded period shall debar pupils from the senior class until the work is made up.

**CREDIT**

The unit of credit is one exercise a week for a half year. A semester's work in any study therefore entitles the pupil to as many credits as there are recitations per week, these being indicated by the numbers at the right of the studies. Laboratory hours are not counted.

**GRADUATION**

The requirements for graduation are :

- I. That the pupil shall have 150 credits.
- II. That he shall have completed the following minimum of work in each class of subjects :
  1. English, 30 credits, as specified in the course of study.
  2. History, 12 credits, as specified in the course of study.
  3. Mathematics, 18 credits. The branches specified in the course of study are recommended.
  4. Science, 15 credits. Two or more sciences must be completed.
  5. Languages, 20 credits (2 years) in one language.